

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,602,846,009,056.50. We've added \$6,975,968,960,143.42 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, Friday, July 25th, marks the 40th anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation, which was established by Congress in 1974, with bipartisan support, including that of President Richard Nixon. LSC is a private, nonprofit corporation, funded by Congress. Its mission is to ensure equal access to justice under the law for all Americans by providing civil legal assistance to those who otherwise would be unable to afford it. LSC funds 134 local legal aid programs, with nearly 800 offices serving every state and U.S. territory.

I have long been a supporter of legal assistance for low income Americans and of the LSC dating back to the 1970s, when I led the effort to establish the LSC funded Virginia Peninsula Legal Aid Center, Inc. So I know from first-hand experience that LSC-funded legal aid programs make a critical difference to low income Americans by assisting with their most basic civil legal needs.

Many Americans are helped by this organization. Three out of four legal aid clients are women, and legal aid programs often identify domestic violence as one of their top priorities. LSC funded attorneys help women seeking protection from abuse, mothers trying to obtain child support, families facing unlawful evictions or foreclosures that could leave them homeless, veterans seeking duly earned benefits, seniors impacted by consumer scams, individuals who have lost their jobs and need help in applying for unemployment compensation and other benefits, and parents seeking to obtain and keep custody of their children.

Today, 63.5 million Americans are eligible for LSC services, which is the highest number in LSC history. Unfortunately, LSC grantees are forced to turn away more than 50 percent of eligible clients who seek their assistance because of lack of adequate funding. With the growing number of Americans eligible for services and increased demand for legal services, the need for legal aid attorneys has never been greater.

Mr. Speaker, on this 40th anniversary, I salute the Legal Services Corporation and LSC-funded attorneys for the vital work they do

every day on behalf of millions of Americans who need qualified, competent legal counsel. Every day that a legal aid attorney protects the safety, security, health, and economic well being of our most vulnerable citizens, they bring this nation closer to living up to its commitment to equal justice for all.

STELA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose suspending the rules to pass H.R. 4572, the STELA Reauthorization Act.

In many rural areas—including large portions of my district—satellite television carriage of local stations is one of the only sources for up-to-the-minute news and weather. It is vital we maintain this link.

Currently, a number of counties in Nebraska are assigned to designated market areas based in another state. Consumers within these "orphan" counties, such as Cherry County, are unable to receive local broadcast programming from within the State of Nebraska.

While H.R. 4572 makes improvements to existing law, this satellite reauthorization is another missed opportunity to address the needs of orphan county consumers who wish to receive in-state broadcast programming over satellite. I am disappointed the STELA Reauthorization Act was again considered under suspension of the rules, whereby no member was able to address this issue on the floor through the amendment process.

It was my hope the House would consider satellite reauthorization under a rule which allowed us to consider proposals like H.R. 4635, the Orphan County Telecommunications Rights Act, of which I am a cosponsor. Under this legislation, orphan counties could petition the FCC to modify which channels are considered to be part of their local DMA.

Unfortunately, the current system for determining DMAs forces some of my constituents in Nebraska to watch local broadcast programming from cities in Colorado or South Dakota which are often hundreds of miles away.

I understand STELA must be reauthorized by the end of this year to ensure satellite television viewers have continued access to local stations. However, because I believe the STELA Reauthorization Act should have been brought up under a rule to enable us the opportunity to consider needed changes to the bill for my constituents, I would have opposed the motion to suspend the rules had a recorded vote been called.

FIGHTING HUNGER INCENTIVE ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2014

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4719.

The bill before us today includes policies that enjoy broad bipartisan support, and have been passed by this body before with Members from both sides speaking out in favor. Unfortunately, the manner in which they are being presented to us today leads me to oppose this bill.

As we debate this legislation, many of our constituents cannot climb out of long-term unemployment. Our inaction on extending the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program means they will not have access to benefits that support their efforts to search for a new job. The Senate has passed legislation to extend the EUC program, but in the House we have been told that the cost of the legislation must be offset. Today, however, we are being asked to support a bill that will add \$16.2 billion to the federal deficit over the next ten years that is not offset. This is a double standard that is unfair to our constituents and does a disservice to the policies we are considering extending here today.

In January 2013, I voted to support a legislative package that extended these three expired provisions: the conservation tax incentive, the IRA contribution provision, and the food inventory donation incentive. The American Taxpayer Relief Act extended these provisions for two years, as did the motion to recommit this bill, which was offered by our colleague from Maryland, Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I was glad to support these provisions in 2013, and in the motion to recommit this bill, because policies to promote charitable giving can help bolster the social safety net that has remained stretched by the lingering effects of the recession. But to attempt to reinforce the safety net in this one area by undermining it in another and refusing to extend EUC is a choice that I am not willing to make.

I look forward to considering these provisions under different circumstances, and for standing up for the importance of charitable giving. This is, unfortunately, not a bill that I can support, and I urge my colleagues to oppose.

HINCHLIFFE STADIUM HERITAGE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2430, the "Hinchliffe Stadium Heritage Act of 2013."

I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this legislation, which makes a long overdue adjustment of the boundaries of Paterson Great Falls National Historic Park to include the historic Hinchliffe Stadium.

Hinchliffe Stadium, located in Paterson, New Jersey, was the home stadium of the "New York Black Yankees" and the "New York Cubans" of the old Negro Baseball League.

In the 1930s and 1940s, baseball, like most American institutions, was segregated by race prohibiting great players like Josh Gibson, Oscar Charleston and Judy Johnson from displaying their extraordinary talents in the major leagues.

These games featured future Baseball Hall of Famers such as Larry Doby—the first player to break the color barrier in the American

League, as well as Josh Gibson, Oscar Charleston and Judy Johnson.

In 1942, future Hall of Famer Larry Doby played at Hinchliffe Stadium as a member of the visiting Newark Eagles. Larry Doby would go on to become the first African American to play in the American League, breaking the color line in 1948 as a member of the Cleveland Indians.

In addition to being the venue for Negro League baseball games, Hinchliffe Stadium also hosted boxing matches, auto races, professional football games, and other notable events.

In 1963, Paterson Public Schools assumed ownership of Hinchliffe Stadium and utilized it for high school sports.

Over time, however, the maintenance funds diminished and the stadium fell into disrepair, ultimately closing in 1997.

Hinchliffe Stadium was recently listed as one of the country's most endangered historic places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and would benefit greatly, as would the nation, were it included in the National Park System.

H.R. 2430 will readjust the boundaries of the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park, which overlooks the Paterson Great Falls, to include the adjacently located Hinchliffe Stadium.

By expanding the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park to include Hinchliffe Stadium, our country will retain one of the last remaining landmarks of an important chapter in the nation's history.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting passage of H.R. 2430.

HEZBOLLAH INTERNATIONAL FINANCING PREVENTION ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support of the Hezbollah Financing Prevention Act of 2014. Hezbollah has killed more Americans than any terrorist group other than Al-Qaeda, and it threatens Israel and America daily. Hezbollah has a far larger and more sophisticated rocket arsenal than Hamas, and it is now offering to support Hamas in its current, ongoing terrorist actions against Israel. This great threat of rockets is the reason the House increased iron dome funding for FY15 at the request of me and Mr. ROSKAM of Illinois.

But it's sanctions that have emerged as America's most powerful deterrent against bad actors in the world. And as we draw down militarily from the Middle East, we must aggressively pursue sanctions against sponsors of terrorism. That's what the bill before us today does. This legislation will help us cut off Hezbollah from the international financial system and cripple Hezbollah's media operations.

The bill also contains an amendment drafted by Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. DEUTCH and me that will enable the disruption of Hezbollah's global logistics networks and its fundraising and money-laundering activities. Our amendment also requires the Obama administration to

shed light on those countries that either overtly or covertly enable any sort of Hezbollah activities within their borders. This provision is particularly important in the Hezbollah context, because there are far too many countries that outwardly condemn Hezbollah's military and terrorist activities while privately fostering environments where Hezbollah can operate politically and financially. Well no more, not if you want to do business with the United States.

I thank Mr. DESANTIS and Mr. DEUTCH for their leadership and partnership, the sponsors of the bill—Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. ROYCE, and Mr. ENGEL—for crafting such important legislation, and committee staff for all their hard work in putting it all together.

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Mr. SIRE. Mr. Speaker, July 20 represented the 40th anniversary of Turkey's invasion and subsequent illegal occupation of Cyprus. As the situation in the eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East is becoming more unstable, it is time to resolve the decades-long forcible division of Cyprus.

As a result of Turkey's occupation of northern Cyprus, thousands of Greek Cypriots are still being denied their fundamental right to return to their homes; Greek Cypriot properties are constantly being illegally confiscated or sold without their owners' consent; Turkish troops continue to be stationed on the island; thousands of colonists from mainland Turkey have been transplanted to the occupied area; freedom of worship continues to be severely restricted, access to religious sites blocked, religious sites destroyed and a large number of religious and archaeological objects stolen.

I have been to the island and seen Turkey's destruction and aggression on the northern part of Cyprus first-hand. It was particularly heartbreaking to see the devastation done to the centuries-old churches, and the ghost-town that the once thriving resort town of Famagusta has become.

Unfortunately, over the past 40 years Turkey has continued to obstruct the negotiating process of reunifying Cyprus. Specifically, Turkey has prohibited the exhumation of remains from mass graves, even under supervision from the United Nations (UN), and rejected proposals to carry out a simple technical survey to determine what needs to be done to rebuild Famagusta in the future.

A solid foundation was laid for result-oriented talks on February 11, 2014, with the release of a joint statement from the two community leaders regarding the intention of cooperation between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. The Cyprus Government remains fully committed to the UN sponsored process to reach a sustainable and enduring settlement that would reunify Cyprus based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolution.

Now, particularly in the wake of the discovery of offshore gas reserves in the eastern Mediterranean, it is more important than ever that Congress stand with our Cypriot allies in

finding a fair and functional solution of the Cyprus problem—not only for the best interest of the people of Cyprus but also for the United States' interest of stability in the region.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF CHRISTOPHER P. MCCULLION

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Chris McCullion. Since 2000, Chris has served in various positions in local government, finance, and economic development. Chris was appointed Orlando City Treasurer by Mayor Buddy Dyer in 2008.

Chris does his part to support causes that further the goal of equality for all people. He has worked with leaders in City government to advocate for policy changes that would improve the City of Orlando's already strong rating in the Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) Municipal Equality Index. The Index examines the laws, policies, and services of municipalities across the country and rates them on the basis of their inclusivity of the LGBT community.

Chris has also been a member of HRC's Federal Club and has supported LGBT and LGBT-friendly candidates for elected office. Chris is proud to have played a part in electing Central Florida representatives who support the LGBT community at the local, state, and national levels.

Chris serves on the boards of directors for the Orlando Federal Credit Union and the Sunshine State Governmental Financing Commission. He is a member of the Florida League of Cities Finance, Taxation and Personnel Committee and the Florida League of Cities Investment Advisory Committee. He holds a master's in business administration and bachelor's degrees in finance and political science, from the University of Florida.

I am happy to honor Chris McCullion, during LGBT Pride Month, for his work to secure equality for LGBT community in Central Florida.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, Friday, July 25, marks the 40th anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). In 1974, Congress—with bipartisan support, including that of President Nixon—established LSC to be a major source of funding for civil legal aid in this country. LSC is a private, nonprofit corporation, funded by Congress, with the mission to ensure equal access to justice under law for all Americans by providing civil legal assistance to those who otherwise would be unable to afford it. LSC distributes nearly 94 percent of its annual Federal appropriations to 134 local legal aid programs, with nearly 800 offices serving every congressional district and U.S. territories.